

Response from Save Millcreek Committee to "What Does the Millcreek System Need?"

As it is known today, the Millcreek system flows from the mouth of Millcreek canyon to the Jordan River. Not all of the year round flow is Millcreek water. From January to approximately June, the Millcreek waters are made up of natural flow from the Millcreek drainage (spring runoff), some flow from boundary springs (excess water not subscribed by users) and storm drain flows that find their way into Millcreek from curbs, parking lots, etc.

During this period, there is little use of the Millcreek waters for irrigation. This is a period of natural system flow.

As irrigation users draw on Millcreek for irrigation use, there is not enough flow in the stream to accommodate the user demand. Salt Lake City, therefore, diverts Utah Lake water into the Millcreek channel at 20th East beginning in early June to increase the flow to accommodate irrigation user requirements. This practice is continued until late September or early October when Millcreek returns to its natural flow.

The year round flow of the Millcreek stream contributes approximately fifteen percent of total flow to recharge the wells within its proximity.

Historically, the number of irrigation users has dwindled each year. We believe that with proper management of irrigation water use, the amount of Utah Lake or "green water" could be reduced, which would result in better quality stream water for all residents along Millcreek stream.

It is the ultimate goal of the Save Millcreek Committee to preserve the flow of the highest water quality, to produce the outstanding aquarian habitat, to encourage natural recharge, and to provide the "in city" fishery.

The Water Commissioner should be responsible for monitoring and delivering the irrigation water to those subscribers who have legitimate water rights, and he should also be responsible for providing a quality environment to the community living along the Millcreek stream.

During the past two decades, we have seen many of the larger lots once used for farming along Millcreek subdivided for residences which have little or no use for irrigation water. This practice is sure to continue as land prices and taxes continue to rise.

With proper water management and good conservation practices, the Committee sees no reason that the Millcreek stream cannot meet both the needs of irrigation and property owners.